(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of Government initiative and various measures such as National Nutrition Policy, National Plan of Action for Nutrition, etc. one in every three malnourished children in the world, according to the UNICEF publication entitled, 'Mapping India's Children: UNICEF in action' lives in India; and

(b) if so, the reason for which the malnourishment in the Indian Children has not been reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Madam. UNICEF Publication under reference reports so. There has, however, been a significant reduction in the prevalence of under-nutrition among children, clinical symptoms of Vitamin A Deficiency, Iron Deficiency and Iodine Deficiency Disorders during the last three decades.

(b) Malnutrition is maltifaceted problem. The determinants of malnutrition vary from female illiteracy, poor purchasing power, food insecurity and inadequate access to basic social services like Health, Education, Welfare, etc. The prevention and control of malnutrition, therefore, requires a multisectoral and multi-dimensional approach. The Government of India is seized of the problem and has been implementing a number of direct and indirect interventions through its different sectors which aim at improving nutritional status of the population. Some of these include Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme, Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY), Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG). Nutrition Advocacy and Awareness Generation Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Mid Day Meal Programme for primary school children of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY), Anapurna Scheme of the Department of Food and Public Distribution. Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, various poverty alleviation and food for work programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, public health measures like vaccination, de-worming, supply of safe drinking water and sanitation also contribute to improving macro (Energy and Protein) and micronutrient (Vitamins and Minerals) status of the population in different ways.

Balika Samridhi Yojana in Kerala

1467. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries existing in Kerala for educational scholarship towards the Balika Samridhi Yojana Scheme and the amount annually required for meeting the scholarship amount;

(b) the amount granted by Government during the current year for the above purpose and whether is sufficient to meet the requirement; and

(c) whether Government of Kerala sought further allotment for clearing the arrears and if so, the details thereof and whether Government would consider to allot the same to the State of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The number of beneficiaries in Kerala was 66700. The Government of India, released an amount of Rs. 600 lakhs in 2004-2005.

(b) No amount was granted for current financial year.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala demanded funds under the scheme, but it was not allotted because the scheme is likely to be transferred to the States by the Planning Commission. Hence, no fund was allocated in 2005-2006.

Share of women in total workforce

1468. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the share of women in total workforce; and

(b) the steps being taken to augment their share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the census of India 2001 data, female workers account for 31.63% share of the total workers in India.

(b) The Government has taken various steps to augment the share of women in the total workeforce. These include:

Programmes and institutional support for skill development and capacity building:

Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing the schemes: Support to Training and Employment Programme and Swawlamban, to provide training and skills to women to facilitate them to obtain employment or self employment on a sustainable basis.